

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARKS OFFICE

ART UNIT:

EXAMINER:

APPLICANT: Marceau, et al.

SERIAL NO.:

FILED: March 23, 2004

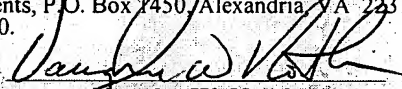
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **March 23, 2004**

I hereby certify that this paper or fee (along with any paper or fee referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Vaughn W. North

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir/Madam:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). Applicant respectfully submits that this Information Disclosure Statement is filed pursuant to:

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b)(1) or (3), within three months of the filing date of the application, or before a first office action on the merits, whichever occurs last;

☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c), after a first office action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p); or

☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (d), after a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, but on or before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by both 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

While no representation is made that any of these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed list of references is disclosed so as to comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the references listed, together with any other references which may have been previously submitted or listed, are the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each listed reference (or relevant portion thereof) which was not previously submitted to, or cited by, the Patent Office is also enclosed.

For all listed references that are not either in the English language, or accompanied by a translation into English, a concise explanation of relevance as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) is enclosed attached to each.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

Dated this 23 day of March, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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VWN/tlt
Enclosure

PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 21644	SERIAL NO. _____
		APPLICANT Marceau, et al.	
		FILING DATE March 23, 2004	GROUP _____

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A1	4,636,031	01/13/87	Schmadel, Jr. et al.			
	A2	5,159,601	10/27/92	Huber			
	A3	5,317,576	05/31/94	Leonberger, et al.			
	A4	5,536,085	07/16/96	Li, et al.			
	A5	5,691,999	11/25/97	Ball, et al.			
	A6	6,519,388	02/11/03	Fernaïd, et al.			
	A7	6,263,002	07/17/01	Hsu, et al.			
	A8	6,393,181,	05/21/02	Bulman, et al.			
	A9	6,449,293	09/10/02	Pedersen, et al.			
	A10	6,452,667	09/17/02	Fernald, et al.			
	A11	6,470,036	10/22/02	Bailery, et al.			
	A12	6,480,513	11/12/02	Kapany, et al.			
	A13	6,490,931	12/10/02	Fernald, et al.			
	A14	6,534,248	03/18/03	Jain, et al.			
	A15	6,563,968	05/13/03	Davis, et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	A16						
	A17						

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	A18	
	A19	
	A20	
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED
<p>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication with applicant.</p>		